

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 27 – Hazardous Materials Collection, Myhand Park, 8 am-noon

Oct. 28 – Feast on the Levee, St. John Catholic Church, Brusly

Nov. 1– SNAP assistance, WBR Library, 10 am

Nov. 2 – Live at 5 on Westside in Addis, 5 pm

Nov. 3-Jan. 6 – Picturing Nam exhibit at WBR Museum

Nov. 4 – Veterans on Parade, downtown Port Allen, 1:30 pm

Nov. 6 – Election Day, voting 6 am - 8 pm, bring photo ID

Nov. 6 – Legal assistance, WBR Library

Nov. 10 – Brusly Veterans Day Breakfast, 9 am

Nov. 13 – Coffee Mixology, WBR Library, 6:30 pm

Nov. 16 – Book publishing for authors, WBR Library, 10 am

Nov. 16 – Live at 5 on Westside in Addis, 5 pm

Nov. 17 – WBR Art Show Reception, WBR Library

Nov. 28 – Superintendent Watts speaks at Chamber meeting, 11:30 am

Dec. 14-16, 20-23 – Reflections of Season at WBR Tourist Info & Conf. Center

Drilling for new well site to begin soon

The parish has identified the location of a new water well site, and expects to begin test drilling at the site before the end of the year. The parish also plans to install a new water line through the southern part of the parish to increase water volume and pressure.

“Now we have to do the test drilling to be sure it provides the quantity and quality of water we need. If so we will build the well there. If it doesn’t, we have to find a new location and do another test well,” said Parish President Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot.

The parish is working with engineering experts on these projects. Meanwhile, efforts are continuing to obtain rights-of-way for the installation of a new water line from the well site to Addis. Construction of the new water main is expected to begin next



Spring. The first phase of that project will bring the line to Brusly. The second and third phases will extend it to Addis.

Parish officials have met with the developers who are planning residential and commercial developments in the southern part of the parish over the next 18

months, and have advised them to delay activities until the parish can get the new water line completed.

“The developments planned consist of 715 more units (houses and apartments) in the southern part of the parish in the next 18 months,” said Berthelot. “We have got to make sure we have the capability to provide water for daily use, and during freezing weather conditions when people are dripping their faucets to avoid frozen pipes, or watering their yards and gardens during droughts.”

WBR growth trend, efforts to reduce traffic issues continue

West Baton Rouge continues to grow at a record pace, and the parish has long been taking steps for its infrastructure to handle that growth and future needs. Parish President Riley “PeeWee” Berthelot said, “While the growth strengthens the local economy and provides a better quality of life, we also are planning where we allow this development in order to protect rural areas, make sure our infrastructure can handle the demand, and address traffic concerns by improving connectivity throughout the parish.”

Besides the huge growth in residential development, the parish has also seen the construction of new hotels, retail, medical facilities and restaurants, along with expansion of some industrial facilities.

RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS: The parish has significantly increased recreational opportunities for residents with much improved park facilities and the Mississippi River levee top trails extending from Port Allen to Addis. Design work is underway to connect the Acadian Path from Mayhand Park to the levee top trail in Addis, and to connect Alexander Park to the trail in Brusly. In addition, the parish is working with the WBR Museum to extend a walkway from Courthouse Street to the levee trail in Port Allen.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS: The article above addresses water system improvements.

ADDRESSING TRAFFIC: The closing of the Sunshine Bridge has had a major impact

Continued on Page 3

Population growth Growth since 2010	WBR 10.40%	Louisiana 3.30%
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WBR Building Permits	
2014	198
2015	121
2016	206
2017	219
2018	206

Assessed value of property	
2017	\$447 million
2018	\$475 million

81% of property taxes paid by business

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

WBR PARISH COUNCIL - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., Parish Council Building, 225-383-4755, www.wbrCouncil.org

WBR PARISH SCHOOL BOARD - Committee meetings - 2nd Tuesday of month, 5 p.m. School Board meetings - 3rd Wednesday of month, 5 p.m., School Board office 225-343-8309, www.wbrschools.net

WBR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION - Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of month, 5:30 p.m., Council meeting room in Parish Council Building.

WBR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS - Meets 3rd Tuesday of month. 5 p.m., Council meeting room in Parish Council Building.

TOWN OF ADDIS - Meets 1st Wednesday of month, 6 p.m., Addis Town Hall. Phone: 225-687-4844, www.addisla.org

CITY OF PORT ALLEN - Committee meetings - 1st Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Council meetings - 2nd Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m., Port Allen City Hall 225-346-5670, www.portallen.org

TOWN OF BRUSLY - Committee meetings on 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Town Council meetings on 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Brusly Town Hall, 225-749-2909, www.bruslyla.com

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Upcoming activities at Museum

Through December 31 - Exhibit: **Piecing Together the Blues** - features the artwork of John K. Lawson, who is known for his mixed-media collage technique. His colorful portraits immortalize eight of Louisiana's most famous Blues performers.

November 2 – Café Français, 1pm – Free

November 3 – January 6 - Exhibit: Picturing Nam: U.S. Military Photography of the Vietnam War - A photographic exhibit from the National Archives covering every aspect of the Viet Nam war - from the jungles and swamps to bases, hospital ships, rivers and air bases.



November 3, 10, and 17, Book Club - 10 – 11:30 pm – Presented jointly with the West Baton Rouge Parish Library to accompany the *Picturing Nam* exhibit, this book club will cover *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, *Everything We Had* by Al Santoli, and *Nam* by Mark Baker. Space is limited. To register and check out loan copies of the reading material, call 225-342-7920. Free

November 4 – West Baton Rouge Veterans on Parade - 1:30 pm - The parade will conclude with a ceremony and reception at the West Baton Rouge Museum. Free

November 15 – Painting and Pinot Grigio with Malaika Favorite– 6:30-8:30 pm Space is limited. To reserve your spot, call 225-336-2422 x200. FREE.

November 19 – Enrichment Monday field trip to The Water Institute and LSU River Model – If interested, contact Gwenn LaViolette at 225-336-2422 x201. Free

November 29 – Luncheon Lecture with Fernando O. Rivera, Jr., CEO/Director, Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System. Noon. Free

December 2 – Holiday Open House, 2 – 5 pm - Enjoy an afternoon at the museum featuring holiday music, warm cider and gingerbread, craft making, a visit from Papa Noel, and everyone's favorite campus wide game, *Find the Elves!* Free

December 17 – Enrichment Monday Alma Mill field trip - If interested, contact Gwenn LaViolette at 225-336-2422 x201. Free

Take action now to protect pipes from freezing

Before the onset of cold weather, protect your pipes from freezing by following these recommendations:

- Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Newspaper can provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes – even ¼" of newspaper can provide significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.

- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.

You can now text 9-1-1 Call if you can, text if you can't!

Sometimes texting in an emergency is a better option, and that is now possible in West Baton Rouge! **Texting should only be used when you are unable to make a voice call to 9-1-1.** With voice calls, emergency operators are able to get much more information quickly to help you.

Texting is intended to benefit people who may not be able to speak due to an emergency, such as a home invasion or abusive partner, as well as individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have limited speech capabilities.

How do you text 9-1-1? Look for the message icon on your cell phone. Put 911 in the number field of your text message. Then put the location and type of emergency in the message field, and send. There is no cost for this service.

WBR LIBRARY

Busy month of activities lined up at WBR Library

Thursday, Nov. 1 - SNAP Assistance

Do you need assistance filling out a SNAP (Food Stamp) application? Drop in at the West Baton Rouge Library any time between 10 am to noon on Thursday, November 1 for one-on-one help provided by a representative from the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

Saturday, Nov. 3 - Library Book Club

The West Baton Rouge Library Book Club is partnering with the West Baton Rouge Museum for a special book club series about the Vietnam war. The book club will coincide with the "Picturing Nam" exhibit at the West Baton Rouge Museum. November meetings (Nov. 3, 10 & 17) will be held at the West Baton Rouge Museum with a guest moderator.

Tuesday, Nov. 6 - Legal Assistance

A representative from Southeast Louisiana Legal Services will be available to answer your legal

questions on Tuesday, Nov. 6 from 10 am to noon. Walk-ins welcome. Criminal cases will not be addressed.

Wednesday, Nov. 7-iPad & iPhone Tips & Tricks

The West Baton Rouge Library offers iPad and iPhone tips and tricks the first Wednesday of every month from 10 to 11 am. Bring your device and questions. Our reference librarian will guide you through helpful tips and tricks for your iPhone or iPad.

Tuesday, Nov. 13 - Coffee Mixology & Cupping

Join CC's Coffee House CEO Celton Hayden and owner of CC's Coffee House Port Allen Paula Clayton for a coffee mixology and cupping event at 6:30 pm. Learn the difference between a cappuccino, latte, and macchiato; the process of roasting coffee, and how to identify properties in a brewed cup.

Thursday, Nov. 15 Barbara Barnes Sims book

Join the West Side Women's Club for its annual Celebrating Louisiana Writers program on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 10 am. Barbara Barnes Sims is the author of *The Next Elvis: Searching for Stardom at Sun Records*, a book detailing her experience as an employee of Sun Records in Memphis in the late 1950s.

Friday, November 16 - Battle of the Presses: Traditional vs Self-Publishing

So you've written a book! Which path should you choose, traditional publishing or self-publishing? Join traditionally-published author Emily Beck Cogburn and self-published author Ashley Michel as they discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the different publication methods and what it takes to get your manuscript ready, find an agent, and find a good self-publishing service, 10 am. Registration is required.

Saturday, Nov. 17 WBR Art Show Reception

Join the West Baton Rouge Library for the annual art show reception from 2 to 4 pm in the Library meeting room. The artwork will remain on display until Wednesday, December 12.

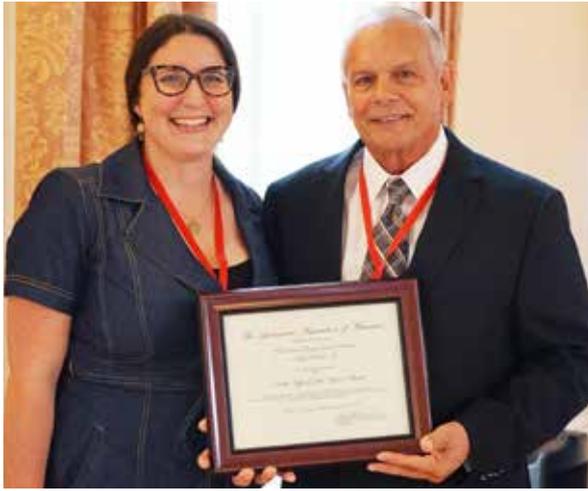
ABOUT THIS
PUBLICATION:



is published quarterly as a cooperative endeavor of West Baton Rouge Parish government agencies to educate residents about projects, activities and services in the parish. It is produced by Peacock Communications, LLC. Comments can be sent to: ellie@peacockcommunications.com, or call 225-929-9661.

Parish addresses garbage issues

The parish has addressed garbage service issues, with its collection provider, Republic Services. Due to the growth in the Addis area, often collections were being missed. To better the services, Republic Services has added additional days of garbage cart pickup in Sugar Mill Plantation on Wednesday and Saturday, and also added another boom truck for large trash pickup throughout the parish. West Baton Rouge was contracted to have a 4 percent increase in the cost of services beginning in September, but that increase was reduced to a 2 percent increase in negotiations with the company.



BERTHELOT HONORED BY STATE MUSEUM GROUP

WBR Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot is shown with WBR Museum Director Angelique Bergeron after he was awarded the Louisiana Association of Museums Public Official of the Year at its annual meeting in September. The award is given for sustained, significant support of Louisiana museums and historic sites. He was nominated by Bergeron for his support of the WBR Museum.

WBR growth trend

Continued from Page 1

on traffic in West Baton Rouge Parish. Parish officials have met with representatives from LA DOTD, WBRP Dispatch, Port Allen Police Department and the WBRP Sheriff's Office to make modifications to address traffic flow until that bridge reopens. We continue to work with state and federal officials to try to curb the La. Hwy. 1 backups, but this is a state highway. "Meanwhile, we continue to make the case for relief in every way we can," said Berthelot.

Infrastructure Needs: "To improve mobility, our focus has been on projects such as the LA 1/I-10 Connector and the Sid Richardson Road Extension," Berthelot said. While the Sid Richardson Road project is currently under construction, progress has been hindered by weather conditions. It is expected to be completed in January 2018.

Recently the LA 1/ I-10 Connector project was awarded \$4.4 million in approved STBG funds and \$1.1 million in matching local funds to advance to the final plan stage so the project is in the best possible position for funding opportunities. Berthelot noted, "We hope to see serious movement on the connector project with the next two years."

Meanwhile, Parish President Berthelot and Iberville Parish President J. Mitchel Ourso, Jr. have taken the lead on meeting with a private investor to fund construction of a new bridge over the Mississippi River. They are also working with Senator Rick Ward on his plan for a regional tax to fund the bridge.

PUBLIC NOTICE: NATURAL GAS

The purpose of this message is to inform the public that West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas System has buried gas pipelines throughout the gas service area that provide safe reliable energy to its customers. West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas System maintains these pipelines to a high standard and they are considered reliable. A Damage Control Program (line markers) and an Emergency Plan for responding to an emergency situation has been established and WBR Natural Gas System works closely with Fire and Emergency Response Personnel. Prior to any excavation in and around any gas facilities contact either of the numbers below.

One-Call System 1 (800) 272-3020 or 811

Help Us Keep You Safe

How to Recognize a Natural Gas Leak

Natural gas leaks may be detected by one of the following indications on or near our pipelines right-of-way:

1. A gaseous or hydrocarbon odor. (smell of rotten eggs)
2. A blowing or hissing sound.
3. Dust blowing from a hole in the ground.
4. Continuous bubbling in one spot in wet or flooded area.
5. Dead vegetation (grass or trees.)
6. Abnormally dry or hardened soil.
7. Fire apparently coming from the ground or burning above the ground.

CAUTION: Gas that has accumulated in a confined space is subject to **explosion**. Please stay away from immediate area of any suspected gas leak! Never turn on or off switches or use a flashlight or phone in the presence of a gas smell.

NOTE: West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas does **not** maintain buried piping between the gas meter and the house or business. The customer is responsible for maintaining and repairing this section of gas piping from leakage. These buried gas lines should be checked periodically for leakage. If you suspect a natural gas leak or in case of an emergency concerning a West Baton Rouge Parish Natural Gas main or service line, immediately call: **1-225-336-2406 or 1-225-490-8599.**

DID YOU KNOW?

West Baton Rouge Parish does not set sewer rates for Port Allen, Brusly or Addis. The parish sends water, natural gas and sewer bills for municipalities as a service, but it does not set the sewer rates in municipalities. Those rates are set by the town or city councils.

The parish has no jurisdiction of the streets in municipalities or the state highways and interstate. Therefore, it cannot repair or overlay those roadways.

WBR RECREATION:

BIDDY BASKETBALL REGISTRATION OPENS

Registration for the West Baton Rouge Parks & Recreation Biddy Basketball program is open during the month of November. Biddy basketball is open to all youths age 4 to 12. Please go to the Parks and Recreation Office in the Port Allen Community Center or call 336-2423.

HELP CURB VANDALISM AT PARKS

West Baton Rouge Parish provides quality parks for residents, and is constantly striving to upgrade its facilities. However, vandalism is a constant problem at all park sites. Residents are asked to help curb this problem by reporting any suspicious behavior at a park to law enforcement or the Parks and Recreation office at 336-2423. Thank you for helping stop the destruction of our great park system!



Fall sports are booming in West Baton Rouge, with more than 600 kids participating in WBR Parks and Recreation full contact football, flag football, soccer and cheerleading!



Please bring these approved materials:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------|
| Acids | Corrosive cleaners | Lighter fluid |
| Aerosol cans | Degreasers | Metallic mercury |
| Arsenic | Disinfectants | Moth balls |
| Auto Products - used oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, fuel filters | Electronic equipment | Oven cleaners |
| Cooking oil | Paint thinner | Drain cleaners |
| Batteries | Paint, stains | Turpentine |
| Bleach, bowl cleaners | Varnish, shellac | Polishes |
| Bug sprays | Fluorescent bulbs | Pool chemicals |
| Wood preservatives | Pesticides, herbicides | TVs, stereos |
| Cleaning solvents | fungicides, fertilizer | Automobile tires |
| | Glue | Propane tanks |



Portion of Hwy. 415 named for Corporal Donna LeBlanc

A portion of Hwy 415 (from I-10 to Rosedale Rd.) was re-named Cpl. Donna LeBlanc Memorial Highway in a ceremony on Sept. 27.

West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office Cpl. LeBlanc was killed in Pointe Coupee Parish by her neighbor on Sept. 27, 2016 trying to protect her daughters at their home. Her daughter, Carli Jo, 21, was also killed before that neighbor turned the gun on himself.

State Rep. Major Thibaut sponsored the bill to rename the highway at the request of Sheriff Mike Cazes and others. The photos are from the ceremony. At right, Sheriff Mike Cazes is shown with Camille Whitmore, LeBlanc's other daughter.



EXTRA PATROLS ON LA HWY. 1 - The influx of additional traffic on La. Hwy. 1 since the Sunshine Bridge was closed has caused even more traffic congestion on the highway. In response, the WBR Sheriff's Office has added patrols on La. 1 to keep traffic flowing, keep vehicles from changing lanes on the Intracoastal Bridge, and clear accidents quickly. The Sheriff's Office met WBR Parish and La. DOTD on Oct. 17 coordinate ways to aid traffic flow as much as possible.

WATCH YOUR CHILDREN AT HALLOWEEN - The West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office will have sex offender patrols out on extra duty for Halloween, but parents are urged to be watchful to keep their children safe during trick-or-treat. Children should have adult supervision at all times and be closely monitored so they don't dart across a street or engage strangers. Stick to familiar areas that are well lit. Check candy before allowing kids to eat it, avoid unlit houses, and do not let children approach vehicles.

VEHICLE BURGLARS OUT AGAIN - Residents are reminded to keep their vehicle doors locked and take any valuables like purses, cell phones, and computers, out of their vehicles at night to deter burglaries.

DONATE TO CHRISTMAS CRUSADE OR GET HELP - The annual Sheriff's Office Christmas Crusade kicks off in December. To register or to donate, go to the Sheriff's Office website: www.wbrsheriff.org, or to the Sheriff's Office facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriffs Office](http://www.facebook.com/WestBatonRougeParishSheriffsOffice).

Hunter safety courses

The WBR Sheriff's Office will offer hunter safety courses this fall. Pre-registration is required. For more info go to www.wbrsheriff.org or call the Sheriff's Office at 382.5200.



TOWN OF ADDIS

Superintendent Artigue retires, Smith named to position

John Artigue has seen Addis grow from a population of 1,200 people to what is expected to be more than 5,000 by the 2020 Census, all the while working to maintain its sewer system and its infrastructure. After 28 years with the town, he retired on October 18 as Addis Public Works Superintendent, and Phil Smith took the reins of the town's infrastructure and sewer system.



John Artigue

"I started with Addis in 1989 with the sewer system and ran it for many years, then moved to maintenance, and was eventually named the Public Works Superintendent," Artigue said. "With the influx of new developments and residents it is harder now than ever to keep up with the demands. I decided it was time to turn it over to someone younger. I enjoyed my work, especially helping the people." Artigue said he plans on doing more camping, fishing and spending time with his wife, Phyllis, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Phil Smith

Phil Smith retired from Dow Chemical Company after 37 years of work in the Power & Utilities unit. There he handled a wide variety of duties including operations, projects, and managing work orders. All of that work uniquely qualified him for his new position with Addis.

He spent his first few months on the job learning the complex sewer system and getting fully certified to run the system. "Addis has 21 pump stations and a large sewer plant that is critical to the town. We have two fully certified operators who are on call 24-hours a day. I plan on making sure that system operates at peak reliability and efficiency," he said. Another goal is to modernize the town's work order system and equipment maintenance program via computer software. Smith is an Lyndale native, and lives with his wife, Sheri, in Antonio Subdivision. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.

Live At 5 on the Westside

November 2 - Bag of Donuts

November 16 - Bucktown All Stars

Town of Addis Railroad Museum & Park
4343 Harris Ave. - 5-8 pm

Food & drinks, balloon artists, face painting, kids' movies in the park!

Sponsorship opportunities available!
Contact the Town of Addis - 225.687.4844

Addis, LA

TOWN MEETINGS:

Town Council - 1st Wednesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm

Planning & Zoning - 3rd Tuesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm

Historical Society - 2nd Tuesday of month, Addis Museum - 5:30 pm



The Town of Brusly welcomes Walk-Ons Bistreaux & Bar, which opened here on Oct. 8. The 8,100 square foot restaurant, is a franchise of the popular restaurant at LSU.



Brusly Mayor Scot Rhodes recently visited 2nd grade students at Brusly Elementary School to teach a short civics lesson on town government. We love our schools.

New welcome signs go up on La. Hwy. 1

The Town of Brusly recently installed new welcome signs on its light poles along La. Hwy. 1. The project is a part of its on-going beautification initiative.

Brusly is known for its flag display for patriotic holidays, and has added to that with the new welcome signs and the Christmas holiday lights, which were first enhanced last year. The holidays lights will be back again in just a month!



Get all the latest Town of Brusly news and updates!
Like us on facebook!

[Facebook.com/BruslyTownHall](https://www.facebook.com/BruslyTownHall)

Come help us honor our veterans!

Veterans Day Breakfast

Saturday, Nov. 10
9 am at Town Hall



Westside Village sewer project set to begin

The Westside Village area, which has long suffered with sewer issues during extreme rain events, will get relief now that \$250,000 in sewer system repairs are beginning in the area. The work includes improvements to the lift station at Avenue D and Harry Brown Street that will increase the flow to the sewer treatment plant, along with increasing the size of the sewer line to the plant from 6 inches to 8 inches.

"This should significantly improve sewer system function in that area and eliminate the backups we have had during heavy rains," said Mayor Richard Lee III.

BLIGHT BEING ADDRESSED

The city recently condemned four dilapidated houses as part of its initiative to remove blight from the city. The houses will be torn down. Mayor Lee noted that condemning houses is an expensive endeavor for the city because there is often no succession from deceased owners, which requires the city to hire an attorney to find the heirs, contact them and go through legal proceedings to have them condemned. In addition, the city usually has to pay to have the structures demolished. "We can file a lien on the property, but often the property is not worth the expense, and it might be years before the city gets any money from the sale of the property," Mayor Lee said.

COURT STREET ANNEXATION

The city is in negotiations with developers who want to build a subdivision on Court Street just outside the city limits about annexing the property into the city. "The parish rejected the project so they came to us because of our proposed annexation plans. The city wants and needs residential growth, so we are in talks with the developers," Mayor Lee said.



MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The City drew a large crowd at the new Cohn Elementary auditorium for the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on October 13. Pastor Johnny Johnson was the guest speaker. Shown are scenes from the event.

Senior Holiday Dinner December 20, 6 - 8 pm.

This is a FREE, TICKETED EVENT. You must have a ticket to attend. Tickets can be obtained at City Hall beginning Dec. 1.

Outdoor pergola complete, Oldies Fest draws crowd

The West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Center is looking forward to hosting its first outdoor wedding, now that the 30 feet pergola over the new exterior patio, lighting and landscaping are all complete. It was first used for the Oldies But Goodies Fest & BBQ Cook Off in September.

Director Kathy Gautreau said the Oldies But Goodies Fest drew a huge crowd this year, and was a very positive event for West Baton Rouge.



REFLECTIONS OF THE SEASON FOR CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Reflections of the Season still has some dates open during the first two weeks of December for corporate and private Christmas parties! The event package can be tailored to the aspects of Reflections of the Season preferred by each group. For more information, call 225.344.2920 or 1.800.654.9701.

14TH ANNUAL
VETERANS ON PARADE
NOVEMBER 4, 2018 DOWNTOWN PORT ALLEN, 1:30 P.M.
CALL THE WEST BATON ROUGE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU 225-344-2920

Reflections Of the Season

Enjoy wagon rides, children's carnival rides, & crafters. Food and beverages available. Santa Claus on Fridays & Saturdays.

December 14-16 & 20-23
5:30 - 9:00 pm
Ice Fishing Dec. 15th
Snow night Dec. 22nd

West Baton Rouge Tourist Information & Conference Center Grounds
I-10 West, Exit #151
2750 North Westport Drive
Closed Monday through Wednesday
Call 1-800-654-9701 or visit www.westbatonrouge.net

\$5.00 per vehicle entrance fee.
Buses \$1.00 per person.
Drive thru or parking at Louis Mouch Arena, 152 Turner Road
Free Shuttle to/from festival

Dancing light display!

LOUISIANA Feed Your Soul. PARENTS Louisiana Cookin' WBRZ 2 PLACID STS COUNTRY ROADS



WBR Chamber earns prestigious statewide distinction

With over 75 chambers of commerce in the State of Louisiana, five chambers were recognized as the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce Executives (LACCE) Accredited Chambers during the Awards Ceremony of the 2018 LACCE Annual Conference. The West Baton Rouge Chamber was thrilled to receive this distinction largely due to its parish partnerships and outstanding chamber family!

The purpose of the program is to facilitate continuing excellence in the chamber industry and to foster a pro-business environment across the state. Chambers must meet standards in organization, service intent and capacity, professional administration, financial management, communications, and advocacy to achieve the designation.

Jamie Hanks, Executive Director, said, "This truly represents that our entire community works together to make 'The West Side The Best Side.'"

According to LACCE, this prestigious award was designed to distinguish the high quality, expertise, and strong leadership displayed by accredited chambers. The five chambers honored make up a total of 13 chambers of commerce that have been recognized with this distinction. "We consider ourselves in great company," said Hanks. "Many chambers have risen to the challenge to provide unparalleled leadership and direction, helping their members and communities thrive. This type of performance reflects a solid organizational infrastructure built through much hard work and diligence."



Shown with the award are, from left, Addis Mayor David Toups, Superintendent Wes Watts, Brusly Mayor Scot Rhodes, Chamber Director Jamie Hanks, Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot, Sheriff Mike Cazes and Port Allen Mayor Richard Lee III.

Fall membership luncheons

October Membership Luncheon – US Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD

Wednesday, October 31, 2018, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Addis Community Center, 7520 Highway 1 South, Addis
Senator Bill Cassidy represents Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District and serves on the Health Education Labor & Pensions (HELP), Energy and Natural Resources, Finance, Veterans Affairs and Joint Economic Committees.

November Membership Luncheon – State of Education

Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Addis Community Center, 7520 Highway 1 South, Addis
The annual State of Education in West Baton Rouge Parish address is given by Superintendent Wes Watts, and will include a progress report on parish schools and new school construction projects.



Property values increase, bills up for 2018

Assessed property values are up for 2018 by \$27 million, thanks largely to inventory held by industrial taxpayers and the residential growth West Baton Rouge has been experiencing, Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan noted in his annual end of year property assessment report.

The total assessed value of real estate increased from \$187.8 million in 2017 to \$193.2 million in 2018. In addition, the value of personal property (inventory, business furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment) increased from \$220.9 million in 2017 to \$240 million in 2018. And, public service values increased from \$38.8 million in 2017 to \$42.1 million in 2018. "The number of new residential units in the parish increased from 187 in 2017 to 202 in 2018," said Altazan.

Property owners can expect their property tax bills to go up approximately 8 percent this year, due to West Baton Rouge voters approving two new school system millages in December 2016. "We have not revalued any properties this year unless it was new construction," Altazan explained. "The increase in property taxes is strictly due to the new millages."

Altazan noted property owners who have been approved for special assessments and have their property values frozen as a result, will still see increases in their property taxes this year. Property owners who are age 65 and

older, are disabled or are disabled veterans can apply for the special assessment.

"While a special assessment freezes property values, it does not exempt the property owner from paying additional property taxes resulting from new millages approved by voters," Altazan explained. The parish had 6,812 property owners who qualified for the homestead exemption in 2018, and 778 property owners who qualified for special assessments in 2018, such as being age 65 or older or being disabled.

Altazan said that 81.03 percent of all property taxes paid in West Baton Rouge are paid by business and industry. However, the parish had a total of \$2.34 billion in industrial property exemptions that will be staggered onto the property tax rolls by 2026. "These are exemptions that the Louisiana Department of Economic Development granted for new manufacturing businesses and existing manufacturing business expansions," Altazan said.

Agencies presently receiving property tax revenues include the Atchafalaya Levee District, School Board, Sheriff's Office, WBR Drainage,

2018 Property Tax Breakdown

Taxing District:	Millage	Total Taxes:
Atchafalaya Levee Dist.	4.04	\$ 1,721,631.00
City of Port Allen	12.81	\$ 537,549.00
Sheriff's Office	16.10	\$ 6,890,120.00
WBR Parish Drainage	7.20	\$ 3,081,293.00
WBR Parish Operations	27.34	\$11,700,352.00
WBR School Board	60.19	\$25,758,747.00

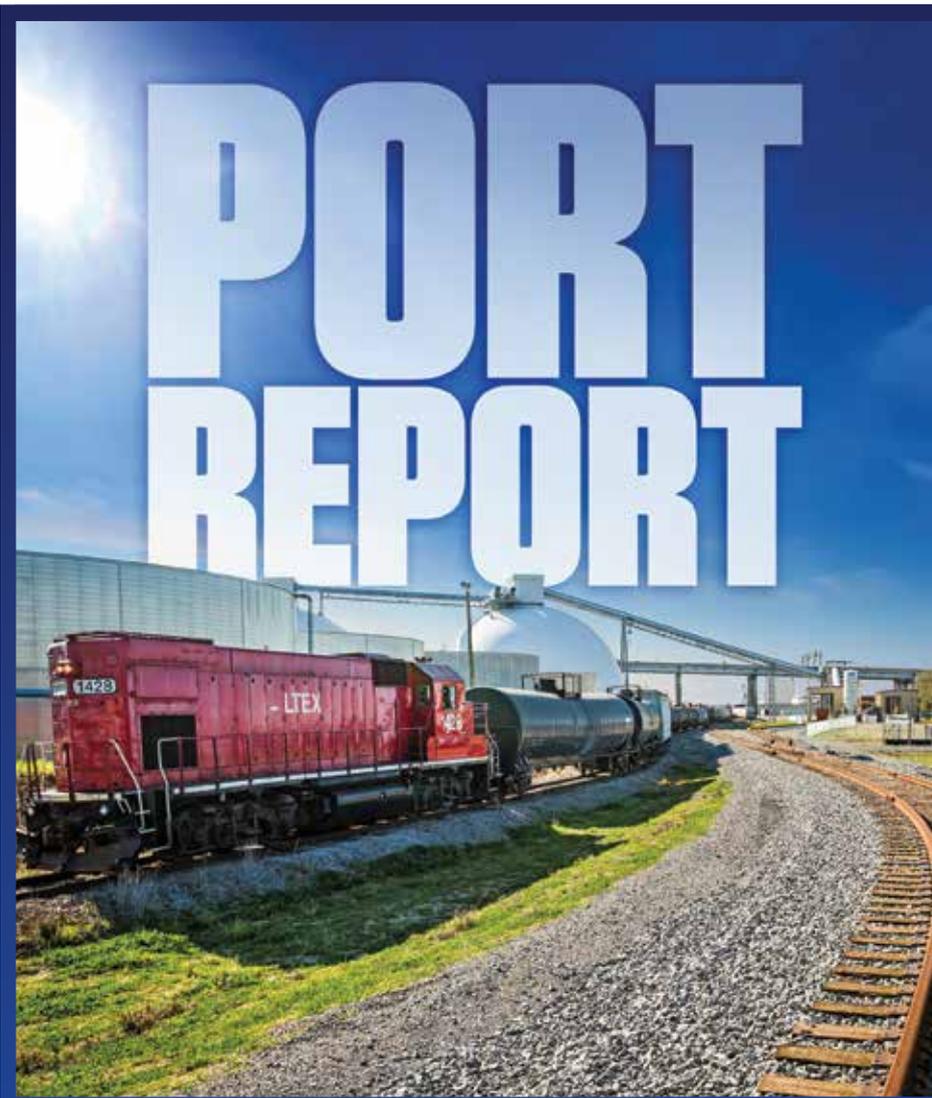
NOTE: WBR Parish Operations includes Central Communications (E911), Community Centers, Council on Aging, General Fund, Health Unit, Library, Museum, Recreation and Assessor's Office.

City of Port Allen, and WBR Parish, which includes the Assessor's Office, Community Centers and Recreation, Council on Aging, E911 Office (Central Communications), Health Unit, Library and Museum.

If you would like to review the property assessment for your property, go to the Assessor's Office website: www.wbrassessor.org.

VIEW YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT
See your property on digital aerial maps!
Learn about tax exemptions, Download forms & more!
www.wbrassessor.org

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE



Rail expansion. Dock improvements. More ship calls.

A dramatic increase in ship calls per year for the Port prompted long-needed improvements to cargo docks on the Mississippi River in addition to an expansion of rail infrastructure.

Union Pacific Railroad is expanding its interchange tracks along Louisiana Hwy. 1 to be accessed from either the north or south in an \$11 million upgrade, and the Port has plans for a \$20-25 million chambering yard south of the Intracoastal Waterway. The state's Capital Outlay Program will help fund the construction of the chambering yard's three, 110-car tracks to handle Drax Biomass wood pellet trains. In addition, Louis Dreyfus Commodities is continuing its efforts in designing and constructing their \$20 million facility rail tracks to handle 110-car grain trains.

To accommodate **Drax, Louis Dreyfus and Houston-based Genesis Energy**, ongoing dock improvements have upgraded 3,500 feet of deepwater cargo docks with a new fendering system and bigger, stronger mooring hooks.

Port Executive Director **Jay Hardman** reports, "We're busy, so as soon as we finish one improvement, we continue to make plans and try to expand for future needs."



2425 Ernest Wilson Drive • P.O. Box 380 • Port Allen, LA 70767-0380
PH: (225) 342.1660 • FAX: (225) 342.1666 www.portgbr.com



In the background a small group of students are taught by teacher Hannah Parsons, and in the foreground, other students work individually on lessons.

New teaching model proving effective at Cohn Elementary

A new teaching approach used for math has shown significant results at Cohn Elementary School. The new program, called ZEARN Math, offers a blended learning approach in which classes are split into groups, with one smaller group being taught by the teacher for 30 minutes of the 75-minute math block, while the other group completes the lesson on computer. They then switch roles.

"This enables the teacher to work with a small group and see what each individual student is understanding and what they are not," said Math Coach Tricia Manola. "Meanwhile the students working on lesson digitally are working at their own pace. Kids who are struggling are not forced to move forward until they understand the material, and students who get it are not held back. They can move forward as fast as they are ready."

Manola and Principal Cassie Brou said the small groups are less intimidating to students, and students often end up teaching each other and sharing ideas. And the computer program provides important data to teachers on where kids are getting confused.

"We have seen tremendous growth in students' reasoning skills," said Brou. The growth resulted in the program being adapted school-wide, and plans are to institute it at other schools in coming years.

WBR technology in classrooms a feature of LACUE conference

West Baton Rouge teachers will give presentations on how they are using technology as an integral part of students' curriculums at the annual La. Association of Computer Using Educators (LACUE) conference in November. "It is very unusual for a small school district, like West Baton Rouge, to be so technology driven," said Tammy Seneca, WBR Supervisor of Information Systems and Educational Technology. She will be sworn in as president of LACUE in January.

"We started with small groups of teachers and the use of technology has really spread because the kids are excited about it," she said. "The School Board made a commitment to getting Chromebooks into classrooms and provided the technology budget, and we've found grants to fund some programs."



Students use technology games to learn.

Among the many different technology tools used are virtual and augmented reality, 3-D printing, Bloxels, competition robots, sphero for coding and math, and more. The technology team works with teachers to help them build curriculum content using technology. "Other school systems have taken notice of our extensive use of technology here," Seneca said.

Gauthreaux nets national honor

Clay Gauthreaux, a student athlete at Brusly High School, has been named a Commended Student in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 competition by taking the SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Clay has a 34 ACT score, with 36 being the highest possible score. He is also a member of the basketball and baseball teams.



School improvement/construction update

BRUSLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Construction is complete on the 7,319 square foot Head Start facility with a multi-purpose area, with only a punchlist left.

BRUSLY MIDDLE SCHOOL: Brusly Middle will become Brusly Elementary when the new Brusly High School opens. At this facility, the administration offices are being moved to the 6th grade building, new CAT 6A wiring and intercom system, new lighting and new playground and fencing are being added. This project will bid out in early 2020 and will be complete in August 2020.

BRUSLY HIGH SCHOOL: The existing Brusly High will become Brusly Middle School when the new high school is complete for the 2020-2021 school years. Work at this school will include removing T-buildings, changing classroom spaces and other upgrades. Meanwhile, site work is underway for the new high school, and design and construction drawings are being completed, with the project being bid in December. This school will open in August 2020.

COHN ELEMENTARY: The new 8,975 square foot multipurpose building, with new administrative space is complete, with just punchlist items left. Other completed improvements include CAT 6A wiring in all buildings, renovated student restrooms, a new freezer, new cooler, and an upgraded vent hood in the cafeteria, new bus drive and renovated carpool area. The current administration office has been converted to a space for counselors and school nurses.

CANEVIEW SCHOOL: The slab for one building at the new school, which replaces Chamberlin and Devall Schools, has been poured and the

block walls are going up. The school will accommodate grades Headstart to 8th grade. It will open with the 2019-2020 school year.

LUKEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Bids on construction of a new administration building and media center will be accepted in mid-November. Other improvements include new intercom system, CAT 6A wiring, exterior restrooms and cafeteria work will be alternates to the bid.

PORT ALLEN ELEMENTARY: Construction bids were received in mid-October, including a new Headstart and Pre-K building, classrooms, CAT 6A wiring, and new intercom system. The existing modular buildings have been relocated to the Port Allen Middle School campus until the new building is complete in August, 2019.

PORT ALLEN MIDDLE SCHOOL: The interior renovations of the main building, new roof, and installation of CAT 6A wiring and intercom system will be bid in early 2019 and will open in 2020.

PORT ALLEN HIGH SCHOOL: Only punchlist items remain on the school improvements, including technology upgrades, roof repairs, HVAC improvements, an improved bus entrance and better traffic flow. The new front canopy should be completed by January, weather permitting, because this work is being done after school hours. Renovation of the school lab has been added to the scope of work at the school, and two new buildings at the school campus, a new theater building and gym, should be complete by June, 2019.

Residents can get updates on all construction projects on the school board website: www.wbrschools.net